



The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

LIHEAP needs at least \$4.7 billion in FY16

Montana’s LIHEAP Funding Down 17.2% from FY10 to FY15

Fiscal Year	National Total	Montana’s Allocation ¹
2016 (President)	\$3.39 billion*	\$19,599,807
2015	\$3.39 billion	\$23,405,416
2014	\$3.42 billion	\$23,654,004
2013	\$3.25 billion	\$18,590,352
2012	\$3.47 billion	\$24,134,757
2011	\$4.71 billion	\$27,018,707
2010	\$5.10 billion	\$28,266,401

*Administration’s \$3.39 billion FY16 request withholds \$200 million nationally for new competitive grants.

State	Households Eligible (5 yr. avg)	Households Served (FY14)	% Households NOT Served (FY14)
Montana	123,170	20,088	83.7%

LIHEAP Clearinghouse and State Reports. Eligible data reflects latest 5-year census estimate of LIHEAP eligible households under the federal maximum.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating¹ and cooling help to millions of vulnerable American families. After long underfunding LIHEAP, Congress appropriated \$5.1 billion for the program in FY09 and FY10, and \$4.7 billion in FY11. Since then, funding has fallen to \$3.39 billion in FY15. As a result, 1.1 million eligible US households are not receiving assistance each year, and individual grants have been reduced. This is occurring even while the numbers of at-risk households remain virtually unchanged from at their all-time highs.²

Why Fund LIHEAP at \$4.7 Billion?

LIHEAP is Not an Entitlement:

Unlike entitlement programs that receive funding increases with growth in the eligible population, LIHEAP is funded by the annual congressional appropriations process. While states set eligibility rates, the income *maximum* is 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline or 60 percent of a state’s median income. (For example, 150 percent of the FY15 poverty guideline for a family of three is \$29,685.³) Most LIHEAP recipients earn much less than the maximum thresholds.

The Need for LIHEAP is Growing:

In 2013, the national poverty rate was 14.5 percent and 45.3 million Americans lived in poverty, these numbers are virtually unchanged for their all-time US highs.⁴

LIHEAP Prioritizes Vulnerable Households:

State LIHEAP administrators report that nearly 90 percent of LIHEAP recipient households had at least one vulnerable person – a senior age 60 or older, a child under 18, or an individual with a disability.⁵

LIHEAP Helps Veterans:

US LIHEAP recipient households containing a veteran jumped 150+ percent over three years – from about 700,000 in FY08 to 1.78 million in FY11.⁶

NEUAC’s Recommendation to Congress: NEUAC urges Congress to restore LIHEAP to at least \$4.7 billion, to concentrate funds in base grants, and reject efforts that siphon appropriated funds from LIHEAP’s core energy-assistance mission.

¹ Post-Sequester. FY10-14 State data: <http://liheap.neat.org/Funding/LHfunding2010-14.xlsx>; FY15 Data, HHS; FY16 data from: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/olab/2016_acf_cj.PDF

² US Census Bureau: “Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013” <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>; NEADA Purchasing Power Table <http://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/purchasingpower201412614.pdf>

³ LIHEAP IM 2014-6 <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/liheap-hhs-poverty-guidelines-for-optional-use-in-fy-2014-and-mandatory-use-in-fy-2015>

⁴ “Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013” <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>

⁵ “2011 National Energy Assistance Survey Summary Report” http://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/FINAL_NEADA_2011_Summary_Report1.pdf

⁶ “LIHEAP Recipients by Veteran Status” http://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/LIHEAP_Veteran_Study_V3.pdf